GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1473
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2015
Indebtness of Farmers
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) has recently conducted any survey to find out the average annual loan taken by farmers and if so, the details thereof, State-wise including West Bengal;

(b) whether the survey has found that the cases of debt-trap have increased in rural areas and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the actions taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS [GENERAL (Dr.) V.K. SINGH (Retd.)]

(a): National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) conducted a Situation Assessment Survey (SAS) of Agricultural Households during January, 2013 - December, 2013 in the rural areas of the country with respect to the agricultural year July, 2012 − June, 2013. In the survey, information on the amount of loan outstanding as on the date of survey was collected from each surveyed household. A statement on State-wise estimates (including West Bengal) of average amount of outstanding loan per agricultural household as on the date of survey is given at the Annexure.

(b): Information on increase of debt-trap in rural areas was not collected in the survey referred to in part (a) above.

(c): Farmers are indebted to both institutional and non-institutional sources of credit. However, borrowing from non-institutional sources is the major reason for debt. In order to reduce the dependence of farmers on private money lenders for meeting their credit needs and providing relief to the indebted farmers, Government has taken several measures to increase institutional credit flow and bringing down the rate of interest on farm loans. These measures, inter alia, include fixation of annual targets for improving agricultural credit flow, provision of crop loans upto Rs.3.00 lakh @4% per annum to such farmers who repay their loan as per the repayment schedule fixed by the banks, extension of benefit of interest subvention scheme to small & marginal farmers having Kisan Credit Card for a further period upto six months for storing their produce in warehouses against negotiable warehouse receipts, collateral free loan upto Rs.1.00 lakh, scheme for financing of Joint Liability Group (JLGs) etc.